

## **Final Solid Waste Staff Group Meeting Notes**

### **June 4, 2004**

Attendees: Jim Arndt, Alison Bennett, Elissa Benson, Elaine Borjeson, Mark Buscher, Diane Carlson, Geraldine Cole, Sharon Conroy, Peggy Dorothy, Michael Huddleston, Linda Knight, Paul Krauss, Beth Mountsier, Mike Reed, Nina Rivkin, Carolyn Robertson, Jerry Shuster, Rob Van Orsow

The subcommittees reported out on the work accomplished in the last 2 weeks.

- Technical subcommittee

The subcommittee discussed its approach to addressing the solid waste technical issues. The major issue discussed was the relationship of the transfer station network to the entire solid waste management system and waste export plan and the need to evaluate the solid waste system as a whole.

The subcommittee created a list of technical analyses needs, but did not reach a decision on timing and manner of addressing those needs. The subcommittee felt that the larger group and/or policy group should discuss how best to proceed (ex: through the Comp Plan or some other approach) and what the timing should be.

- Interlocal subcommittee

The subcommittee reported out and the larger group discussed two primary questions on how to proceed:

1. What formal or informal process do we need to move forward with interlocal negotiations?
2. What topics should be specifically included as part of that discussion?

The group discussed both formal and informal groups that could be established, as well as the usefulness of using a “time out” or “safe harbor” approach to negotiations (where formal negotiations are put on hold for a certain amount of time, and no party waives any rights in the process). A “MWPAAC” type committee, advisory to the Council on solid waste issues, was suggested as part of an informal approach.

A consensus formed around the concept of informal negotiations and a safe harbor approach. In addition, establishing a “MWPAAC” type group also received support, but with the recognition that a staff group would probably have to continue working the issues until the new committee could be formed. Timing was not fully analyzed and will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Finally, the group debated whether to include contract duration as one of the issues on the list to be discussed in the informal negotiations (along with roles and responsibilities, interlocal forum structure, decision-making, dispute resolution

and host city mitigation). Since the group had opted for an informal, safe harbor approach, several parties articulated that it would not be appropriate to limit the topics that could be discussed and duration should be included. King County department representatives commented that they would need to see the actual language proposed before they could agree. The subcommittee agreed to work on some language to include in legislation. There was additional discussion as to whether the differing positions regarding the inclusion of duration should be memorialized as part of the legislation so there was no confusion once the safe harbor period concluded.

- Policy subcommittee

The policy subcommittee presented its work so far on Solid Waste System Goals that could be included in legislation. The group recognized that more discussion will be needed on the goals for the system prior to finalization.

- Next Steps

The RPC meets on July 7<sup>th</sup>, and we need to be ready with some work product by that meeting.

Michael Huddleston offered to work with other committee members to pull together some draft language for the committee to consider at its next meeting in one week.

- Next Meeting

Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at Bellevue City Hall, Room 3 AB.